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No. 7.

THE COUNTRY COURIER.
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This paper is published twice a week, MONDAYS and THURSDAYS, on a large super royal sheet, in an octavo form, so that if the numbers are preserved, they will make two volumes in each year, each volume containing about eight hundred pages; making sixteen hundred pages a year, free of Advertisements, for the small sum of FIVE DOLLARS A YEAR.

The profit which can be made from such a paper is very small; and it is therefore, necessary that a rigid system of *punctuality* should be established and adhered to. This can only be done by insisting on payment in advance. That system will be hereafter scrupulously adhered to, without respect of persons.

It will follow, we trust, not less conclusively, that we ought not to be subjected to postage.

Upon these terms we are willing to publish the Country Courier, and whether we have to print it for fifty subscribers or a thousand, upon no other terms shall, or can we publish it.

To publishers of Newspapers in the United States and elsewhere.

It is requested that such of you as publish daily papers, will give the above an insertion, and the favor will be returned whenever requested. To others we have in particular to propose, that they give the above as many insertions as will make up the difference between the price of their papers and this.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23.

[We have forbore to publish the annexed letter, because we wished first to ascertain whether it had any foundation in fact. If the narrative be true, it discloses one of the most extraordinary cases recorded in the annals of duelling. But we doubt it.]

[Ed. Courier.]

New-York, Dec. 8th, 1816.

MR. GARDENIER,

I was yesterday present at an *affair of honor*, which like other affairs of that kind, would not merit notice, but for its moral. The dispute arose in a conversation respecting a much lamented event, which lately occurred. Mr. P. of this city, was successively invited to a party over by Mr. B. Mr. F. and Mr. T. of this city, and neighborhood. The invitation was of course, accepted—but the *sine qua non*!—One minute after the word, and the parties on their stations! My own feelings I cannot describe. I was one of the attendants of Mr. P. He had three, for each of his opponents had one, and it was deemed prudent to balance. Mr. B. was the first on the ground. Mr. P. and friends did not arrive till some minutes after, owing to one of the boatmen. The other parties were in sight. Immediately before jumping on shore, Mr. P. said, "Do you think

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that I intend to kill any of these men? I know myself: one I would hurt slightly; the others I cannot. I may be hit, but my life has been adventurous, beyond the knowledge of my nearest connexions, and I feel that I am doing right—do not talk to me, but take care of these letters."

Mr. B. fired. Mr. P. did not raise his arm, but was uninjured. And now commenced a scene new and unexpected to all of us! The parties had all landed. The minute was almost elapsed. Mr. P. held in his hand a watch, which he had borrowed. He put it in his fob, and said, "Mr. B. I know you was wrong; my shooting you will not make you right, or me happy. I have a family, you have none. Mark that yellow spot on that tree. (By actual measurement 14 yards off.) He shot it within one inch of the centre. So ended that. The other parties who had leapt on the shore, now approached. A conversation arose respecting priority. The point was decided by a *toss up*. Mr. T. gained it. He fired and very slightly wounded Mr. F. Mr. P. fired at the same spot, and hit his own ball! It is but justice, however, to observe, that Mr. T. knew nothing of the transaction before, or he would, probably, have declined attempting to injure.

Mr. F. consented to receive an apology. Mr. Mr. P. refused. "*Noli me tangere*." I have no ill will towards you, or any other person—let us finish." Mr. F. fired, and slightly wounded Mr. P. Mr. P. reserved. "Sir said he, you have thrice exposed my life by your unjust observations respecting one of my friends. I have to be sure, spoken harshly, but you deserved it. I ought not now, however, to tell you so—I am wrong—I acknowledge it." He fired in the air. The seconds interposed. A reconciliation proposed. "Stop! (said Mr. P.) I have been shot at three times. Two of you are satisfied. What have you got? You might have killed me—to be sure; but I know that I could have killed you—I talk quick, and am habitually imperative. I had no right to interrupt the conversation of strangers, because the subject was ———." So after exposing himself in thirty minutes, to three shots, Mr. C. acknowledged to the person he said he would hurt, that he was wrong! What a lesson for me! All who are killed in duels, are killed by the cowardice not the courage of their antagonists. This I now feel to be true.

For the Courier.

MR. EDITOR,

Let me tell a short story, and apply it. A woman had in a dish a parcel of half picked bones; and some scraps of meat, which she was a going to throw into the street. Please, said a person who saw what she was about to do, to give to me, what you are going to throw away. I will, said the woman, if after you have eat the meat and picked the bones, you will be careful not to leave a bone behind. Agreed, said the buccient. But after the meat was eaten and the bones picked, she who had been the means of filling the

persons stomach, found that *all* the bones were left behind. *Application*—such is the conduct of those, who have contracted to carry away the street dirt in our City. They pick out all that may be called manure, as long as they can take it up by the *full shovel*, and carefully leave behind them stones, pieces of brick, old mats, broken pots, and pans, old shoes, and boots, broken glass, and many other things too tedious to name. Now if the Corporation, have the meat and picking of the bones, they ought to remove the bones out of the way. I have been in Europe, and have seen how London, Bristol and Bath are cleaned. Scavengers are employed, who not only remove out the streets dirt, but every nuisance, and likewise sweep that part of every street, used by carriages. Scavengers in Europe, are persons employed, for the sole purpose of keeping streets decent, and for which they are *paid*. Here, I understand that persons give the Corporation considerable sums to have the privilege of keeping the streets always dirty. How long are those things so to be? Yr's. B.

MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY.—It appears from the census lately taken, that the total population of the Mississippi Territory is seventy five thousand, seven hundred and forty-six. Of this number thirty thousand, five hundred and four are slaves.

RIGHT OF INSTRUCTION.

The following is extracted from the speech of Edmund Burke to the electors of Bristol in the year 1774. The gentleman who was elected with him, having, in the course of his address at the close of the poll, stated to the electors, that he should, at all times, hold himself bound by their instructions, Mr. Burke, when it came to his turn to speak, alluding to what had fallen from his colleague, thus expressed himself:—

"My worthy colleague says, his will is subservient to yours. If that be all, the thing is innocent. If government were a matter of will, upon any side, yours, without question, ought to be superior. But government and legislation are matters of reason and judgment, and not of inclination; and what sort of reason is that, in which the determination precedes the discussion; in which one set of men deliberate and another decide; and where, those who form the conclusion, are perhaps three hundred miles distant from those who hear the argument.

"To deliver an opinion, is the right of all men: that of constituents is a weighty and respectable opinion, which a representative ought always to rejoice to hear; and which he ought always most seriously to consider. But *authoritative* instructions; *mandates* issued, which the member is bound blindly and implicitly to obey, to vote, and to argue for, though contrary to the clearest conviction of his judgment and conscience; these are things utterly unknown to the laws of this land, and which arise from a fundamental mistake of the whole order and tenour of our constitution.

"Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors from different and hostile interests; which interests each must maintain, as agent and advocate,

against other agents and advocates; but parliament is a *deliberative* assembly of *one* nation with *one* interest, that of the whole. You choose a member, indeed; but when you have chosen him, he is not a member of Bristol, but he is a member of parliament. If the local constituent should have an interest, evidently opposite to the real good of the rest of the community, the member for that place ought to be so far as any other, from any endeavour to give it effect. Your faithful friend, your devoted servant, I shall be to the end of my life: a flatterer you do not wish for.

Summary Justice, in our City Court.—On Monday morning last, James Charles, a stout hale young colored man, stole a cheese; he was arrested, brought before an Alderman, here and admitted to bail. On Tuesday morning his case was reported to the Attorney General, who sent a bill to the General Inquest.—They endorsed it "a true bill," and presented it to the Court. The prisoner was arraigned, *had a fair trial*, was convicted by the Petit Jury, and, by the Court, sentenced to "Six Years imprisonment at hard labour, "to be fed and clothed as the law directs"—From the committing of the Larceny to the passing of sentence, and the *commencement of the punishment*, was less than *twenty hours*!—*Philad. D. Press.*

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE—WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18.

After the reception and reference of sundry petitions.

On motion of Mr. *Morrow*, a resolution was adopted, directing the committee of Public Lands to enquire into the expediency of reprinting the collection of land laws of the United States, with all additions passed since the last revision.

On motion of Mr. *Sanford*, it was resolved, that the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to lay before the Senate, a statement of all the monies which have been collected by virtue of the laws for the relief of sick and disabled seamen, a statement of the expenditure and application of those monies, comprehending the objects of expenditure, and a general view of the administration of that fund; and also, such information as he may possess tending to shew how far the monies collected under the laws now in force are sufficient or insufficient for the relief of sick and disabled seamen of the United States.

The resolution offered on Monday by Mr. Mason, of Va. for the appointment of a standing committee on the subject of the District of Columbia, was taken up and agreed to, and Messrs. Mason, of Virginia, Goldsborough, Macon, Daggett and Stokes were appointed to compose the committee.

The bill from the House for the relief of Nathaniel Williams, was read the third time and passed, and

The Senate adjourned.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19.

Mr. DANA, of Connecticut, appeared and took his seat.

Little other than what is called Executive business (and is always transacted in conclave) was done to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18.

After the reception and reference of various petitions ;

Mr. Lowndes, of S. C. from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill for the relief of Henry Malcolm ; and a bill to discharge from his imprisonment John Ricaud, late a paymaster in the army, which were severally twice read and committed.

THE COMPENSATION SUBJECT.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. from the committee appointed on the subject, submitted a report relative to the compensation of the members of Congress, embracing an elaborate and ample view of the subject accompanied by a bill to repeal the present compensation law, and in lieu thereof to provide a daily allowance of dollars, and dollars for every twenty miles travelling to and from the seat of government. [The great length of the report prevents its publication to day—it shall be given as early as practicable.]

The report and bill having been read,

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. moved, that the bill be made the order of the day for the second Monday in January. His reason for moving so distant a day, was to give time to many members to arrive, who had not yet reached here, and to avoid having the subject discussed during the holidays, when the House was usually thin from the absence allowed to members.

Mr. H. Nelson, of Va. objected to so distant a day, and moved that the bill be made the order for to morrow.

A short debate arose on the propriety of selecting an early or distant day.

Mr. Nelson's motion was advocated by himself and Mr. Barbour, on the ground that the subject had been so much agitated and so fully discussed, that it was already well understood, and further time for its consideration was unnecessary ; that the measure was carried through rapidly at the last session, and as it required no more time to repeal a law than to make it, further delay was useless.

The motion, made by Mr. Nelson, was opposed by Messrs. Grosvenor, Calhoun, Robertson, Hulbert and Pickering, who were in favor of a more distant day, because between this time and January the House would be less full ; and that viewing the subject as one of uncommon importance, one which was perhaps connected with the future liberties of the country, a proper time for deliberation was necessary ; that as the house had

been accused of acting rashly in passing the existing law, they might be as properly reproached with cowardice by a hasty and precipitate retraction. &c.

Mr. Gaston, conceiving that the honor of the house required that they should on the one hand avoid unnecessary delay, and on the other an unbecoming precipitancy, moved that the bill be made the order for the first Monday of January. The question being first taken on Mr. Johnson's motion for the second Monday, was carried by a large majority.

On motion of Mr. Edwards, the committee on pensions were instructed to enquire into the expediency of placing the heirs of Joel Parrish on the pension list.

On motion of Mr. Alexander, a similar instruction was given in the case of Maylint Parker.

THE EPERVIER.

Mr. Taylor, of N. Y. offered for consideration the following resolution :

Resolved, That the committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for the settlement of the accounts of the officers and crew of the U. States' brig Epervier, supposed to have been lost at sea.

Mr. Taylor remarked, on this motion, that all must recollect with what pain and anxiety the arrival of this vessel had been expected and hoped for, on her return with despatches from the Mediterranean. From the lapse of time since that period, the last ray of hope glimmering in the bosoms of the friends of the officers and crew of that vessel had become extinct, and the persons on board had been now long given up for lost. Among them there was a young man of the name of Mhelmeton W. Bostwick, who was Purser on board the vessel. On the breaking out of the late war, said Mr. T. he felt a disposition to signalize himself in the service of his country. He entered the Naval service a volunteer, and was placed on board the frigate Essex. In the various instances in which that frigate distinguished herself, Bostwick bore a distinguished part. Without the aid of friends or patronage, by his good conduct on every occasion, he soon attracted the attention of the very distinguished commander of that vessel. After the capture of the Essex, he was, on his return home, recommended and appointed a Purser in the United States' service. There was committed to his charge money for recruiting for the Epervier, and he was distinguished by the accuracy and attention with which he discharged the duties of appointment. His papers, his money, and all his accounts, Mr. T. said were at the bottom of the ocean. It was due to the feelings of his friends and connexions, that their regret at his loss should not be increased by his being placed on the books of the Depart-

ment as a defaulter, on account of the disaster which destroyed at the same time his life and his accounts. It was not necessary, Mr. T. added, to say any thing on the subject of extra allowance to the heirs of those who had thus perished, as that subject would present itself to the naval committee. But, at any rate it was fit that some provisions should be made for the adjustment of the accounts of the deceased, which could not be settled at the Navy Department, without the interference of the Legislature.

The resolve was agreed to.

Mr. Caldwell, of Ohio, submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the President to appoint Commissioners to locate and mark out the Road from the Ohio river, opposite to Wheeling, in the state of Virginia, through the state of Ohio, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The resolution having been amended, on motion of Mr. Taylor of N. Y. so as to refer the subject to the standing committee on Roads and Canals, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

On motion of Mr. Pickens, of N. C. the House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the state of the Union, to take into consideration his proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

After some debate, the question was taken on the first part of his proposition, in the following words:

"For the purpose of choosing of Representatives in the Congress of the United States, each State shall be divided, by its Legislature, into a number of districts, equal to the number of Representatives to which the State may be entitled.

Each district shall contain as nearly as may be, equal numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons.

In each district the qualified voters shall elect one Representative."

And decided as follows:

For that clause	86
Against it	38

So that more than the constitutional majority of two thirds decided in favor of this part of Mr. Pickens' proposition.

The debate continued on the remainder of it till nearly 4 o'clock, when the committee rose and reported progress; and

The House adjourned.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19.

The Speaker laid before the House the report of the Acting Secretary of War, a report on the petition of Robert Sewall, stating

the circumstances of the case of the destruction of his house in city of Washington, by the British authorities; which report was read and referred to the committee of the whole, to whom was referred the report of the committee of Claims on that class of cases, and to whom also was referred this morning the petition of the sufferers on the Niagara frontier during the late war.

On motion of Mr. Robertson, the committee on Pensions were instructed to enquire into the expediency of placing Richard Bently on the list of public pensioners; on motion of Mr. Hulbert, a like direction was given in the case of Vassel White, of Massachusetts.

On motion of Mr. McCoy, the committee on Post Roads was instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a Post Road from Hull's Store in Pendleton county, in Va. to Bath court-house.

On motion of Mr. Forney, of N. C. the committee on Military Affairs were instructed to enquire into the expediency of making such alteration in the organization of the corps of artillery, as will place the officers of that corps upon a more equal footing, as regards promotion, with the officers of the other corps of the army.

On motion of Mr. Scott,

Resolved, That the committee on Public Lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for the establishment of land offices for the sale of the public lands, in the territory of Missouri, at the following places: at the town of Arkansas in the county of Arkansas; at the town of Jackson in the county of Cape Girardeau; at the seat of justice, in the county of Lawrence, and at the seat of justice in the county of Howard.

On motion of Mr. Scott,

Resolved, That the committee on the Public Lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for leasing and working the Public Salines, belonging to the United States, in the Missouri territory or such part thereof as it shall be deemed advisable to put into operation for public use.

Mr. P. P. Barbour, of Va. moved the following resolution;

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to enquire into the propriety of so amending or explaining the 4th section of the act for designating, surveying and granting military bounty lands, passed on the 6th of May, 1812, as to authorize a devisee of said bounty lands, tho' no patent shall have been granted therefor, at the time of his devise.

Mr. B. observed on this motion, that the object of that section of the law was to prevent a sacrifice by discharged soldiers of their property, without knowing or realizing its value; but it could never have been the intention of the Legislature to prevent a man

from disposing of his own unquestionable property, on his decease, to any other person than the heir at law, if he should so will. This construction, however, had been given, and it was this construction he wished to be corrected.

The resolve was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Scott,

Resolved, That the committee on the Public Lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for the better regulating, leasing and working the Lead Mines in Missouri, in such manner as to protect the lessees in the quiet enjoyment of their leases, and to enable the government to collect its rents.

On motion of Mr. Pope, of Illinois,

Resolved, That the committee on Indiana affairs, be directed to present to this House a general view of the measures that have been adopted under the several laws providing for the establishment of trading houses with the Indiana tribes, so as to shew whether the expenses thereof have been defrayed by the profits, without diminishing the capital, or requiring auxiliary appropriations; and also to show at what points trading house are established under those laws.

FOREIGN INDIAN TRADERS.

Mr. Pope, of Illinois, moved the adoption of the following resolution;

Resolved, That the committee on Foreign Relations be instructed to inquire into the expediency of excluding foreigners from trading with the Indians residing within the limits of the United States.

Mr. Forsyth, of Geo. suggested to the gentleman, that his object, as ascertained from the face of his resolution, had been already attained by an act passed at the last session.

Mr. Pope said, that the act referred to gave to the government a dispensing power. His opinion was, that there ought to be no such power, and that foreigners ought to be entirely excluded. Such a course would relieve the Indians from their present dependence upon the British traders, the ill effects of which was at present very evident.

Mr. Desha suggested a modification of the motion, so as to refer the subject to the committee on Indian affairs, instead of the committee on foreign relations, to which Mr. Pope acceded.

Mr. Forsyth then suggested to Mr. Pope the propriety of defining his object more precisely, because from the terms of the resolution now proposed, it would appear as if there was no law in existence, excluding foreigners from trading with the Indians.—There was such a law; and it would be better, Mr. F. thought that the gentleman should specify in his motion the particular part of it he desired to see amended.

Mr. Pope said he had not only in view, the

object he had mentioned, to repeal the dispensing proviso to the act of last session, but that the committee should also recommend such measures as would ensure a due and certain execution of other provisions of the law in question.

The resolve was agreed to.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

Mr. Taylor of N. Y. introducing the following resolution, adverted to the obvious importance of a correct report of the decisions of cases adjudged in the Supreme Court. The subject had been before Congress at the last session, and a bill passed the Senate to authorise the appointment of a Reporter of the decisions of cases adjudged in the Supreme Court, but from the press of business had not been acted on in this House. To bring the subject again before the House, he moved,

“That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire into the expediency of authorising the appointment of a Reporter to the Supreme Court of the United States.”

The resolve was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Blount, of Tenn. the committee on Post Roads was instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a Post Route from Morgantown in Tennessee to Cersonville in Georgia.

THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

The house then proceeded to the order of the day, in committee of the whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Smith of Md. in the chair, to take further into consideration Mr. Pickens' proposition to amend the constitution of the United States.

The debate continued at large on the Electoral feature of the proposition. As it will hereafter appear, particulars are not thought here to be necessary.

At the usual hour of adjournment, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24.

The Senate of the United States has confirmed the appointment of William Lee, Esq. late consul at Bordeaux, to be Accountant of the War Department.

The Hon. Alexander C. Hanson is chosen a Senator, by the Legislature of Maryland, in the room of the Hon. Mr. Harper, resigned. The vote stood as follows:

For Mr. Hanson,	46
Gen. Winder,	39

The attention of many intelligent men in the United States, has been recently turned, with peculiar force, and a corresponding zeal and spirit of perseverance, to the proposition for establishing a COLONY OF FREE BLACKS. On this subject a Meeting is requested, by advertisement, to take place in this city this

evening. The meeting, we are informed, will probably be respectable, both as to numbers and character. The following proceedings of the Legislature of Virginia, are singularly contemporaneous with the institution of proceedings on the same subject in other quarters.—*D. Nat. Int.*

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

Friday, December 13.

On motion of Mr. Doddridge, the galleries and lobby were cleared, and the doors of this house were closed, whereupon, the following preamble and resolution being offered by Mr. Mercer, of Loudoun, and amended, were agreed to by the house—ayes 137—noes 9.

"Whereas the General Assembly of Virginia have repeatedly sought to obtain an asylum, beyond the limits of the United States, for such persons of colour, as had been, or might be, emancipated under the laws of this commonwealth, but have hitherto found all their efforts frustrated, either by the disturbed state of other nations, or domestic causes equally unpropitious to its success:

"They now avail themselves of a period when peace has healed the wounds of humanity, and the principal nations of Europe have concurred, with the government of the United States, in abolishing the African slave trade, (a traffic, which this commonwealth, both before and since the revolution, zealously sought to terminate) to renew this effort; and do therefore Resolve, That the Executive be requested to correspond with the President of the United States for the purpose of obtaining a territory upon the shore of the North Pacific, or at some other place not within any of the states or territorial governments of the United States, to serve as an asylum for such persons of colour, as are now free, and may desire the same, and for those who may be hereafter emancipated within this commonwealth; and that the Senators and Representatives of this State in the Congress of the United States be requested to exert their best efforts to aid the President of the United States in the attainment of the above object: Provided, that no contract or arrangement respecting such territory, shall be obligatory on this commonwealth until ratified by the Legislature."

On motion of Mr. Mercer, of L. the injunction of secrecy was then taken off, and the doors opened. Ordered, that the clerk communicate the said preamble and resolution to the senate, and request their concurrence.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.

Important from South America.—Mr. M'Faddon who came passenger in the Highflyer, 32 days from Boquilla de Piedras, has politely communicated to the editors of the Baltimore Patriot, the following important intelligence:

The fort of Montebland, which commands the king's road near the cities of Orizavi and Cordova, was captured November 15, by a force of 2,500 Spanish royalists, by means of treachery. Several attacks were repulsed by the fort; but two companies of royalists, throwing down their arms, and rushing into the fort under pretence of joining the patriots, having arms put into their hands by the latter,

in the night rose upon them, and in conjunction with the troops without, subdued the garrison.

Gen. Vittoria, the patriot commander of the province, was in his turn, besieging the royalists—he had a force blockading the cities of Xalapa, Orizava and Cordova.

The royalists were advancing from Vera Cruz, 1000 strong, upon Boquilla, which is garrisoned by only 75 men, and would probably have to surrender.

The fort of Guazalooe, was attacked in the month of October last, by Gen. Teran, who was defeated with the loss of 400 men. Wm. D. Robertson, Esq. was killed among them.

Latest from Europe. By the arrival yesterday morning, of the brig Hesper, Stevens, in 46 days from Glasgow, Glasgow and London papers to the 26th Oct. are received.

LONDON, Oct. 22.

Corn. The weather since our last has been dry and cold. The market yesterday was well supplied with new wheat; Many of the samples were so dry, as to grind without any mixture of old wheat. Flour advanced 5s per sack.

The statement whether foreign grain can be admitted, will be published immediately after the 15th prox. and the probable result may be stated much sooner. The letters yesterday from the Baltic, state that wheat had risen nearly 50 per cent. in consequence of the high price in England.

LONDON, Oct. 26.

Average prices of British corn per quarter, for England and Wales, Oct. 19th—Wheat, 93s 9d; barley, 44s 9d.

Private Correspondence.

LONDON, Oct. 26.

Saturday Evening, half past seven. }

By accounts received to day from Holland, it appears that there had been considerable squabbling between some American owners and the Dutch Government, and the former charge the latter with a breach of faith. Several American ships arrived in this country with cargoes of tea, and as none had been recently received in Holland by the Dutch East India Company, they were anxious to take the American cargoes to dispose of at the autumn sales, in order to afford a supply for the country until their own teas had been got home. In the interim some Dutch tea ships arrive, and on this account the Dutch Government will only permit a half of the American teas to be sold, consisting of 21,000 quarter chests.

The Dutch sales are fixed for the 12th of next month, when the above chests are expected to be sold; but the residue of the American cargoes (says the Dutch Government) must be put off till the spring. Meanwhile, the Americans, feeling that they have been

already both deceived and disappointed, suspect that in the interval should any further arrivals take place on Dutch account, and which is more than probable there may, the remains of the American cargoes will have to remain over for an uncertain period. These proceedings are sorely felt by the Americans; but, on the other hand, it is stated by the Dutch that some of the American cargoes were landed without any previous permission being given, of any promise being made them with regard to their sales—and such cargoes, it is maintained, ought to have no preference, over Dutch cargoes.

Exchanges came lower from all parts of the Continent to-day. At Paris, on Wednesday last, exchange on London was 25, 30.

We have advices from Naples to the 7th inst. Our correspondent takes no further notice of the American squadron. We consider, that according to the former accounts, it will winter in Sicily. It is to be deplored that the harvest has been extremely deficient in Italy, inasmuch that the government had come to the resolution of allowing the importation of wheat, rice, flour, oats, and barley of all kinds, free of duty. This regulation which has been ordered was to continue in force until the 31st of August, 1817.

From the Norfolk Herald of Dec. 16.

On Saturday arrived at this port, the fine fast sailing ship *Indian Queen*, Watson, 37 days from London. No reduction had taken place in the prices of grain and flour; on the contrary, we are advised that they were "advancing pretty rapidly." The *Times*, of the 27th states that the quantity of Corn in the King's warehouses is not above 200,000 quarters at the utmost, and that by the time of the British ports come to be opened to receive Corn, those ports from which it should come will be blockaded up by the ice. Letters from Antwerp, informed that vessels were loading with grain to start for the English ports as soon as they should be opened.

Belvoir Castle, the splendid mansion of the Duke of Rutland, near Grantham, in Lincolnshire, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 25th October. It was only insured 40,000l. The paintings alone were said to be worth twice that sum!

LONDON Oct. 29.

We lament to see by the Gazette that the average price of wheat, in the week ending the 12th inst. was 93s 9d. We copied a paragraph from another paper, stating, that the average of the last six weeks of the quarter went only to ascertain whether the ports should be open for the whole of the subsequent quarter, or for only six weeks of the quarter. Upon reference to the Act it will be seen, that by the clear provisions of the Act, if the price is above 80s. the ports will be open for the whole quarter. There are, we

understand, about 200,000 quarters of Foreign Wheat in granary ready to be brought out; and several vessels are on their way from the Baltic with grain; so that no apprehensions need be entertained of bread rising to a higher price.

CHARLESTON Dec. 16.

West-Indies.—A gentleman, who arrived here on Friday last from St. Bartholomews, informs us, that the sugar crops in the different West-India Islands, promised to be very abundant. Flour was selling at St. Barts, 22d ult. at \$11 25 in barter for produce, and was expected to decline still lower; not a dollar of money could be had. The American vessels at Martinique and Guadaloupe, have suffered dreadfully by sickness—in some instances every man on board had died, and the French government were obliged to take possession of the vessel. Two northern brigs, destined for this port, were at St. Barts; a large proportion of the crew of one of them had died.

Actual Sales for the week past.

Cotton—Sea Island, 37 a 39 cts. per lb; Santee, &c. 35; Short Staple, 24 1-2 a 25 1-2.

Rice—prime, \$5.—Second quality, 4 3-4.

Flour—Camden, superfine, \$13 a 13 1-4; Philadelphia, 13 a 13 1-2; Richmond, 12 1-2; Baltimore, 12 1-2; Fayetteville 12.

Corn \$1 50 per bush.; Oats, 90 cts.

Dry Goods continue heavy; the sales at auction of the *Bolina's* cargo of damaged woollens, has caused a further stagnation in that description of goods.

Cotton is in good demand; Sea Islands are looking up a little, and one or two parcels of superior Uplands have been sold as high as 26 cents.

Rice in brisk demand at 5 dollars.

Flour, dull sale, at prices a little reduced.

Corn has declined in price since our last.

Groceries, most articles continue stationary.

Coffee has advanced one cent per lb.; Sugars in good demand; Molasses scarce; Rum continues heavy.

Freights very scarce.

BOSTON, Dec. 20.

Of Marshal Savary, &c. &c.—Ship *Augusta*, Rea, 72 days from Smyrna, and 60 from Malta, has arrived at Salem. The *Augusta* stopped at Malta, in consequence of a report received from an English vessel, of a war having broke out between America and Spain; heard nothing from Naples, of Mr. Pinckney's negotiations; Marshal Savary, Duke of Rovigo, was on board the *Augusta* about a week, and was very anxious to procure a passage with captain Rea to America, but could not be accommodated; but preparations were making on board the brig *Only*

Son, of Philadelphia, to take him to America. Gen. Latlemand had embarked for England to secure some property; from thence he intended also to come to this country. Left, at Smyrna, brig Only Son, of Philadelphia, uncertain when to sail; brig Alexander, of New-York, do; ship Wabash, of Baltimore, do.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29.

A petition was this morning presented by Mr. Clark, of N. Y. from the sufferers by the incursions of the enemy at Buffalo, of a like tenor with that of yesterday, presented by the same gentleman from the Niagara frontier, which gave rise to some conversation, which resulted in a reference of both memorials, on a motion of Mr. Webster, to a select committee, to report thereon.

Mr. Tucker, of Va. from the committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill to incorporate the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank in Georgetown, in the District of Columbia; a bill to incorporate the Central Bank of Georgetown and Washington, in said town of Georgetown; a bill to incorporate the Union Bank of Alexandria; a bill to incorporate the Patriotic Bank of Washington; a bill to extend the charters of certain banks in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; a bill to prevent the circulation of the notes of unchartered banks within the District of Columbia; all which bills were read, and referred to the same committee of the whole.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

On motion of Mr. Pickens, of N. C. the House having again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Smith of Md. in the chair, on the proposition to amend the constitution so as to establish an uniform mode of election of Representatives and Electors.—

The debate continued until past three o'clock, when the amendments offered to the original proposition having been rejected, the question was taken on the second and last number of the proposition in the following words:

"A division of the States into districts, for choosing Representatives in the Congress of the United States, and into districts for choosing Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, shall take place, as soon as conveniently may be, after each enumeration and appointment of Representatives shall be made, which districts shall remain unaltered, until after the succeeding enumeration and appointment of Representatives."

And decided as follows:

For the clause

Against it

51

There being a sufficient majority to carry the question in committee of the whole, but not sufficient to sanction the proposition eventually, the consent of two thirds of both Houses being necessary.—

The committee rose and reported the resolution to the House.

Mr. Pickering, of Mass. proposed further amendments; when

The whole subject was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

And the House adjourned to Monday.

THREE-FINGERED JACK.

[From the Kingston, (Jamaica) Royal Gazette, August 10.]

Three-fingered Jack.—The following account, published by Dr. Mosely in his Treatise on Sugar, of the combat between John Reeder and Three-Fingered Jack, a notorious runaway, which took place on the 27th Jan. 1781, near Mount-Libanus, in St. Thomas's in the East, will be read, it is presumed, with some interest, on account of his recent death. John Reeder received the reward of one hundred pounds offered by the proclamation of major-general John Dalling, then governor of this island, and afterwards had an annual stipend of twenty-five pounds, which was increased of late years to thirty pounds, and paid under the poll-tax law.

Formerly there was no regular method of treating the *yaws* in the West Indies. It was thought to be a disorder that would have its course, and, if interrupted, that it would be dangerous. It was then the custom, when a negro was attacked with it, to separate him from the rest, and send him to some lonely place by the sea-side, to bathe; or into the mountains, to some provision ground, or plantain walk, where he could act as a watchman, and maintain himself, without any expense to the estate, until he was well; then he was brought back to the sugar-work.

But this rarely happened. A cold, damp, smoky hut, for his habitation; snakes and lizards his companions; crude, viscid food, and bad water, his only support; and shunned, as a leper, he usually sunk from the land of the living.

But some of these abandoned exiles lived, in spite of the common law of nature, and survived a general mutation of their muscles, ligaments, and osteology; became also hideously white in their woolly hair and skin; with their limbs and bodies twisted and turned, by the force of the distemper, into shocking grotesque figures, resembling woody excrescences, or stumps of trees; or old Egyptian figures, that seem as if they had been made of the ends of the human and begin

nings of the brutal form ; which figures are, by some antiquaries, taken for gods, and by others for devils.

In their banishment, their huts often became the receptacles of robbers, and fugitive negroes ; and, as they had no power to resist any who chose to take shelter in their hovels, they had nothing to lose, and were forsaken by the world ; a tiger would hardly molest them. Their desperate guests never did.

The host of the hut, as he grew more misshapen, generally became more subtle ; this we observe in England, in crooked, schrophulous persons ; as if nature disliked people's being both cunning and strong.

Many of their wayward visitors were deeply skilled in magic, and what we call the *black art*, which they brought with them from Africa ; and, in return for their accommodation, they usually taught their landlord the mysteries of sigils, spells and sorcery ; and illuminated him in all the occult science of *Obi*.*

These ugly, loathsome creatures, thus became oracles of woods and unfrequented places ; and were resorted to secretly, by the wretched in mind, and by the malicious for wicked purposes.

Obi and *gambling*, are the only instances, I have been able to discover, among the natives of the negro land in Africa, in which any effort at combining ideas has ever been demonstrated.

The science of *Obi* is very extensive.

Obi, for the purposes of bewitching people, or consuming them by lingering illness, is made of grave dirt, hair, teeth of sharks, and other creatures, blood, feathers, eggshells, images in wax, the hearts of birds, and some potent roots, weeds, and bushes, of which Europeans are at this time ignorant ; but which were known, for the same purposes, to the ancients.

Certain mixtures of these ingredients are burnt, or buried very deep in the ground ; or hung up a chimney, or laid under the threshold of the door of the party to suffer ; with incantation songs, or curses, performed at midnight, regarding the aspects of the moon. The party, who wants to do the mischief, is also

* This *Obi*, or, as it is pronounced in the English West-Indies, *Obeah*, had its origin, like many customs among the Africans, from the Ancient Egyptians.

Ob is a demon, a spirit of divination and magic. When Saul wanted to raise up Samuel from the dead, he said to his servants, "Seek me a woman (eminent for *Ob*) that hath a familiar spirit."

His servants replied to him, "There is a woman (mistress in the art of *Ob*) that hath a familiar spirit, at Endor."

When the witch of Endor came to Saul, he said to her, "Divine unto me (by thy witchcraft of *Ob*) by the familiar spirit, and bring me up whom I shall name unto thee." 1 Samuel, chap. xxviii. v. 7 and 8.

sent to the burying grounds, or some secret place, which spirits are supposed to frequent, to invoke his dead parents to assist him in the curse.

A negro, who thinks himself bewitched by *Obi*, will apply to an *Obi-man*, or *Obi-woman*, for cure.

These magicians will interrogate the patient, as to the part of the body most afflicted. This part they will torture with pinching, drawing with gourds or calabashes, beating and pressing. When the patient is nearly exhausted with this rough magnetising, *Obi* brings out an old rusty nail, or a piece of bone, or an ass's tooth, or the jaw bone of a rat, or a fragment of a quart bottle, from the part ; and the patient is well the next day.

The most wrinkled and most deformed *Obian* magicians are most venerated. This was the case among the Egyptians and Chaldeans.

In general, *Obi-men* are more sagacious than *Obi-women* in giving or taking away diseases ; and in the application of poisons. It is in their department to blind pigs and poultry, and tame cattle.

It is the province of the *Obi-women*, to dispose of the passions. They sell foul winds for inconstant mariners ; dreams and phantasies for jealousy ; vexation and pain in the heart, for perfidious love ; and for the perturbed, impatient and wretched, at the tardy acts of time, to turn in prophetic fury to a future page in the book of fate, and amaze the ravished sense of the tempest tossed querent.

Laws have been made in the West-Indies to punish the *Obian* practice with death ; but they have had no effect. Laws constructed in the West-Indies, can never suppress the effect of ideas, the origin of which is in the centre of Africa.

I saw the *Obi* of the famous negro robber, *Three fingered Jack*, the terror of Jamaica in 1780 and 1781. The Maroons who slew him, brought it to me.

His *Obi* consisted of the end of a goat's horn, filled with a compound of grave dirt, ashes, the blood of a black cat, and human fat ; all mixed into a kind of paste. A black cat's foot, a dried toad, a pig's tail, a slip of parchment of kid's skin, with characters marked in blood on it, were also in his *Obian* bag.

These, with a keen sabre, and two guns, like *Robinson Crusoe*, were all his *Obi* ; with which, and his courage in descending into the plains, and plundering to supply his wants, and his skill in retreating into difficult fastnesses, commanding the only access to them, where none dared to follow him, he terrified the inhabitants, and set the civil power, and the neighbouring militia of that Island, at defiance, for two years.

He had neither accomplice nor associate.—There were a few runaway negroes in the

woods near mount Libanus, the place of his retreat; but he had crossed their foreheads with some of the magic in his horn, and they could not betray him. But he trusted no one. He scorned assistance. He ascended above *Spartacus*. He robbed alone; fought all his battles alone; and always killed his pursuers.

By his magic, he was not only the dread of the negroes, but there were many white people, who believed he was possessed of some supernatural power.

In hot climates females marry very young; and often with great disparity of age. Here Jack was the author of many troubles; for several matches proved unhappy.

"Give a dog an ill name, and hang him,"

Clamours arose on clamours against the cruel sorcerer; and every conjugal mishap was laid at the door of Jack's malific spell of *tying the point* on the wedding day.

God knows poor Jack had sins enough of his own to carry, without loading him with the sins of others. He would sooner have made a *Medean* cauldron for the whole Island, than disturb one lady's happiness. He had many opportunities; and, though he had a mortal hatred to white men, he was never known to hurt a child, or abuse a woman.

But even Jack himself was born to die.

Allured by the reward offered by Governor Dalling, in a proclamation, dated the 12th of December, 1780, and by a resolution which followed it, of the House of Assembly,* two negroes named Quashee and Sam, both of Scot's Hall, Maroon-town, with a party of their townsmen, went in search of him.

Quashee, before he set out on the expedition, got himself christened, and changed his name to James [John] Reeder.

The expedition commenced; and the whole party had been creeping about in the woods for three weeks, and blockading, as it were, the deepest recesses of the most inaccessible part of the Island, where Jack, far remote from all human society, resided, but in vain.

Reeder and Sam, tired with this mode of war, resolved on proceeding in search of his

retreat, and taking him, by storming it, or perishing in the attempt.

They took with them a little boy, a proper spirit, and a good shot, and left the rest of the party.

These three, whom I well knew, had not been long separated, before their cunning eyes discovered, by impressions among the weeds and bushes, that some person must have lately been that way.

They softly followed these impressions making not the least noise. Presently they discovered a smoke.

They prepared for war. They came upon Jack before he perceived them. He was roasting *plantains*, by a little fire on the ground, at the mouth of a cave.

This was a scene, not where ordinary actors had a common part to play.

Jack's looks were fierce and terrible. He told them he would kill them.

Reeder, instead of shooting Jack, replied, that his *Obi* had no power to hurt him; for he was christened; and that his name was no longer Quashee.

Jack knew Reeder; and, as if paralyzed, he left his two guns remaining on the ground, and took up only his cutlass.

These two had a desperate engagement several years before in the woods; in which conflict Jack lost the two fingers, which was the origin of his present name; but Jack then beat Reeder, and almost killed him, with several others who assisted him, and they fled from Jack.

To do *Three-fingered Jack* justice, he would now have killed both Reeder and Sam; for, at first they were frightened at the sight of him, and the dreadful tone of his voice; and well they might; they had, besides, no retreat, and were to grapple with the bravest and strongest man in the world.

But Jack was ———, for he had prophesied, that *white Obi* would get the better of him; and from experience, he knew the charm would lose none of its strength in the hands of Reeder.

Without further parley, Jack, with his cutlass in his hand, threw himself down a precipice at the back of the cave.

Reeder's gun missed fire. Sam shot him in the shoulder. Reeder like an English bull-dog never looked, but, with his cutlass in his hand, plunged headlong down after Jack. The descent was about thirty yards, and almost perpendicular. Both of them had preserved their cutlasses in the fall.

Here was the stage, on which two of the stoutest hearts, that were ever hooped with ribs, began their bloody struggle.

The little boy, who was ordered to keep back, out of harm's way, now reached the top of the precipice, and, during the fight, shot Jack in the belly.

* House of Assembly, 29th Dec. 1780.

Resolved, That over and above the reward of one hundred pounds offered by his majesty's proclamation, for taking or killing the rebellious negro called *Three-Fingered Jack*, the further reward of *Freedom* shall be given to any slave that shall take or kill the said *Three-Fingered Jack*, and that the house will make good the value of such slave to the proprietor thereof. And if any one of his accomplices will kill the said *Three-Fingered Jack*, and bring in his head, and hand wanting the fingers, such accomplice shall be entitled to his free pardon, and his freedom as above, upon due proof being made of their being the head and hand of the said *Three-Fingered Jack*.

By the House, SAMUEL HOWELL, Cl. As.

Sam was crafty, and coolly took a round-about way to get to the field of action. When he arrived at the spot where it began, Jack and Reeder had closed, and tumbled together down another precipice, on the side of the mountain, in which fall they both lost their weapons.

Sam descended after them, who also lost his cutlass among the trees and bushes, in getting down.

When he came to them, though without weapons, they were not idle; and, luckily for Reeder, Jack's wounds were very deep and desperate, and he was in great agony.

Sam came up just time enough to save Reeder; for Jack had caught him by the throat, with his giant grasp. Reeder then was with his right hand almost cut off, and Jack streaming with blood from his shoulder and belly; both covered with gore and gashes.

In this state Sam was umpire, and decided the fate of the battle. He knocked Jack down with a piece of a rock.

When the lion fell, the two tigers got upon him, and beat his brains out with stones.

The little boy soon after found his way to them. He had a cutlass, with which they cut off Jack's head and *three-fingered han*, and took them in triumph to Morant-Bay.

There they put their trophies into a pail of rum; and, followed by a vast concourse of negroes, now no longer afraid of Jack's *Obi*, they carried them to Kingston, and Spanish-Town; and claimed the reward of the King's proclamation, and the House of Assembly.

DIED—In Hannah's Town, on Tuesday night, at a very advanced age, JOHN REEDER, a well known black man, as having been many years captain of the Charles Town Maroons. He is the person who, in the year 1781, after a most severe personal conflict, killed the noted and desperate robber, *Three-Fingered Jack*, who was supposed by the negroes to be possessed of supernatural powers, and deemed invulnerable from all attacks. In consequence of this service, Reeder received an annual stipend from the government of this Island. He did not know his exact age, but said only a few days ago, that he was but a boy at the first peace with the Maroons in the year 1739.

[Kingston (Jam.) paper, 3d Aug

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25.

For the Courier.

THE LYCEUM.

MR. EDITOR.—To the consideration of those who may feel interested in the subject, I beg leave to recommend the following *Resolutions*, previous to the proposed meeting; when it is hoped that the members will be prepared to act with unanimity and decision. Have the goodness to give them an insertion in your valuable paper, and much oblige, Sir,

H. Your most obt. servant,
ACADEMICUS.

New-York, 20th Dec. 1816.

Resolved, That the attainment of intellectual improvement and intellectual pleasure be the sole objects of this institution.

Resolved, That for this purpose, we assemble at the Lyceum, in the afternoon of every Monday, at six o'clock.

Resolved, That the officers of this institution consist of a president, a preceptor, a secretary, and a committee of three, called the *Committee of Censors*, to be chosen by ballot, on the first Monday in each year.

Resolved That it be the duty of the preceptor to select, and propose subjects for conversation; and of the president to regulate, and preserve order in our meetings.

Resolved, That we sedulously endeavour to acquire a correct habit of thought, and the best style of expression, on subjects interesting to us, as rational and immortal beings.

Resolved, That, as contributory thereto, we hold a *conversation* of (say) on hour's length, at every meeting, the subjects having been previously designated by the preceptor—that we, individually, hold an epistolary *correspondence* with the Lyceum, weekly; each individual addressing his, or her, letter, written upon such subject and signed with such *assumed* name, as the writer may choose, *To the Secretary of the Lyceum*;—that the letters, so received, after having been read aloud by the secretary to the members, and subject to such remarks and criticisms, as they may think proper to make, be referred to the Committee of Censors; who, after examining and correcting, shall mark such, as, in their opinion, deserve to meet the public eye, with *For the Lyceum*.

Resolved, That the letters, so approved by the Committee of Censors, be copied by the Secretary, and sent to the office of the _____ for publication.

Resolved, That persons be selected, for admission as members of this institution, by the president, with the advice and consent of the preceptor; but any member may be expelled by the votes of one fifth of the members present at a regular meeting.

REPORT

Of the Committee appointed on the 4th inst. to inquire into the expediency of repealing or modifying the law passed at the last session, changing the mode of compensation to the members of Congress.

The committee, to whom was referred the consideration of the expediency of repealing or modifying the law passed at the last session, relative to the compensation of the members of Congress, ask leave to REPORT—

The power vested in Congress by the constitution, of providing for the pay of its own members, is, doubtless a delicate trust; and it might be apprehended, as well from the nature of the subject, as from former experience, that the most judicious exercise of that trust would not be exempt from some degree of public animadversion. The committee, however, cannot perceive, either in the increase of compensation provided by the late act, or in the mode of making that compensation, cause of excitement or alarm, adequate to the effects which are understood to have been produced. The addition which this law has made to the public expenditure is not considerable; and if it had been created by other measures of government, would not, probably, of itself, have been thought worthy of great attention.— And the change in the mode of compensation, even if it be not attended with real and manifest advantages, does not still appear to be wrong, so clearly, and in such

dangerous measure, as to furnish grounds for any high degree of public inquietude. The committee, therefore cannot but be of opinion, that the law in question has not been considered without some mixture of misapprehension of its principles and objects, and that a more accurate knowledge of its provisions, and more mature reflection on its design and tendency, if they should not end in a conviction of its usefulness, would yet result in a different and far more moderate estimate of its probable evils. It would not become the committee to claim any infallibility for the body of which they are members, nor to take it for granted, that every law which it may pass, must, necessarily, be a wise and wholesome act of legislation. Human errors and imperfection find their way into all bodies. And there is, doubtless, existing in the judgment of the community, a power under whose revision this and other acts of government must and ought to pass. If, however, on a review of this subject, the House should still be of opinion, that the law in question, or some equivalent provision, has become essentially necessary for the useful exercise of the powers of government, and for the safety, security, and honor of the people themselves, its members may still hope, that in not hastily departing from it, they will be justified by the enlightened sense and generous sentiments of the nation. The abandonment of a measure, which, according to their most conscientious conviction, is intimately connected with the general good, would be no means of obtaining favor with the American people.

If, in passing the law in question, the House of Representatives discharged any portion of its duty, it acted upon general and public principles, with an entire disregard to the convenience of its own members, any further than their convenience was supposed to be connected with the public service. It treated the question, not as one between them and the public, but as exclusively of public and national concern. It regarded it as a subject of general policy, by which the nation, and the nation only, was to be affected; as much so as any other act of legislation whatever. Any imputation, so gross as to impeach its conduct in this essential particular, a feeling of self respect must compel the House to pass over in silence, and its members must rely on their known character, as members of the government, and as citizens of the community, to disprove it. The House would not presume to judge whether its services, in the various and important matters upon which it has acted, have deserved any consideration or respect from the public; but for those services, such as they are, it has not sought, nor would accept, any reward which could be measured out to it in a mere pecuniary compensation. And while the members of the House would certainly not think of claiming any merit for passing the law in question, any more than for the discharge of what they thought their duty in any other case, the committee do not see that they have any cause for taking humiliation upon themselves, on account of having passed an act which they believed would be essentially useful to the country, but which they must have foreseen would be exposed itself, and might expose its authors, to misapprehension and misrepresentation of all sorts. Holding offices in the immediate gift of the people, of short duration, and at a time when the people were soon to exercise, in most districts, their accustomed privilege of a new election, if these offices had been objects of their regard, and if they had permitted personal considerations to influence their conduct, it is obvious that all such considerations pointed to a course different from that which they pursued. They must have known, that no measure could be more easily misconstrued and perverted to the purposes of obloquy and reproach.—The committee cannot yet believe that a faithful discharge of duty, in the face of these probable consequences, is to be reckoned among dangerous political errors.

At the commencement of this government, it was of

course among its first measures to fix, by law, agreeably to the requisition of the constitution, the pay of members of Congress. In the old Congress under the confederation, the members were paid, not out of the national treasury, but, by the States which they represented. The rates of compensation were different in different States; some States paid to its delegates eight dollars a day; others six; others less; and one State at least paid them by an annual provision of six hundred pounds sterling. It was natural to recur to these precedents, when the subject was taken up by the first Congress under this constitution. Taking as a just and obvious standard, by which to regulate the amount of compensation, the average of the rates which had been paid by the different States, to their delegates in the old Congress, it was found that such average amounted to somewhat more than six dollars a day. The compensation was accordingly fixed at six dollars a day by the law of 1789.

As it was foreseen, that the depreciation of money, or the increased expense of living, might render this provision inadequate, the law was limited in its duration, in order that it might be considered, and altered if necessary, at a future period. The subject was again brought before Congress, in 1796, by the expiration of the former law. On this occasion, as the committee have learned, and indeed as some of them remember, there was much diversity of opinion in the house of representatives; some members wished, then, to change the mode from a daily sum to an annual allowance; others preferred to retain the existing mode, but to increase the sum; and a committee of the House reported in favor of increasing the daily pay to eight dollars, assigning for reason, a proportioned increase in the price of all commodities, and the expense of living, since the passage of the first act. Those who opposed this augmentation, admitted it would be reasonable, if the price of commodities and the expense of living should keep up; but they hoped that the rise would be temporary, and that money would soon resume, in relation to the expense of living, its former value. The proposition to increase the pay was lost by one or two votes only, and a law passed establishing the former rate.

The state of things existing in the government and in the country, from 1796 to the close of the late war, furnish obvious reasons to account for the circumstance that during that period, no attempt was made to raise the pay of members of Congress. In the mean time, the seat of government had been transferred to the City of Washington, and the expense of living, instead of returning to its former rate, as was expected by some, has gone on increasing progressively, until money, in relation to the means of life, does not retain more than half its former value. In other words, if six dollars a day was no more than a reasonable provision in the cities of Philadelphia and New-York, eight and twenty years ago, twelve dollars would not be more than a reasonable and equal provision in the City of Washington, at the present time. Forty years ago, as has been stated above, some of the states paid their delegates in Congress eight dollars a day; and yet it never was supposed, during the revolution or afterwards, that the people of the United States had made unreasonable or exorbitant provision for their public agents. But, unless the early history of the country was marked by great extravagance in this particular, the rate of six dollars a day, fixed by the law of the first Congress, was no more than a moderate and necessary allowance at that time, because it was no more than the average of what all the states had found it necessary to pay to their respective delegates during the revolution.

The only question then, is whether there has been in truth such a change in the country, in the value of money and the expense of living, as to render that provision, which was no more than sufficient in 1789, insufficient in 1816. It is a truth, plain to all whose

experience or information enables them to judge, that so great has been the change in the foregoing particulars, which eight and twenty-years have produced, that it is not incorrect to estimate the expenditures necessarily attached to a seat in Congress at twice their former amount. This change has not been confined to the condition of members of Congress. It has extended all over the country, and as well the national government as every state government has been obliged to provide for it in a proportionate increase in the salaries of their public officers.

The statute book of this government exhibits a constant and progressive increase of compensation in all the departments of government, with the exception of the legislature and the supreme judiciary. On the recommendation of the executive, or its branches, the legislature has repeatedly augmented the provisions for that department, patiently raising the pay of clerks and of writers far above that of its own members, without agitating either itself or the country with any question about its own compensation. From the heads of the departments to the lowest clerkships in the public offices, a general augmentation has obtained throughout. A long enumeration of instances is not necessary. One may suffice. When members of Congress were first paid six dollars a day, the salary of the attorney general was 1500 dollars a year. This salary has since been increased to three thousand dollars; and the executive has, at the present session, found it necessary to recommend a still further increase, as essential to the public service. If the duties of that officer have increased, so have the duties of members of Congress in at least an equal proportion; and which of the two stations requires the greatest sacrifice of private pursuits may be easily discerned.

At the time of passing the late act, it was found upon enquiry, that, from the organization of the government to the commencement of the thirteenth Congress, (1813,) Congress had, on an average of all the years, been in session one hundred and fifty-nine days in a year. For eight years, ending with the thirteenth Congress, (1813) it had been in session, on an average, one hundred and sixty-five days in each year. An easy computation will show that, supposing Congress to sit hereafter as many days within the year as it has usually done heretofore, the present amount of compensation, including travel and attendance, will exceed the amount received for travel and attendance under the former law, thirty-eight per centum. After the lapse of eight and twenty years, then, Congress has, for the first time, increased the pay of its members. It has increased it about one third, and no more; although within the same period, it has been called upon to raise, and has raised, the compensation of nearly all other officers of government in a far greater proportion.

This enhancement of other compensations is not adverted to for the purpose of showing that Congress has been as favourable to others as to itself, or that it has made itself the latest object of its own bounty. In neither case has it supposed itself to be bestowing bounty, or conferring favour. It has sought only to make such provisions as the public interest demanded. But the circumstance is referred to as furnishing evidence of the necessity of the late law, by showing that a similar necessity has been found to exist in other cases; and that by that law, Congress had done nothing for its own members which execu-

tive recommendation, and its own opinion of propriety, with the general concurrence of public sentiment, had not compelled it to do at an earlier period, and in ample measure, for other officers of government.

The state legislatures, from the same necessity of complying with the change of circumstances, have made corresponding changes in the salaries of the officers of their governments; and it may not be inapplicable to recent occurrences to remark, that the members of these legislatures have, in almost every state increased, in many doubled, in some trebled, their own pay, during the period in which the compensation to members of Congress has remained at its original rate. As far, also, as the committee can learn, this increase of pay to members of state legislatures, has, in every instance, taken place in the same session in which it was voted.

Objections have been made to the manner of compensation introduced by the law of the last session. It has been said to have created salaries. If, by this, it is intended that the law allows to every member a defined and certain sum, without any deduction for absence or omission of duty, it is not a correct representation. Such deductions are provided for by the law, as completely as under the former mode. It has already been observed, that a difference of opinion has long existed on this point; and it still exists. When the law of 1796 was passed, there were those who thought it advisable to change the mode then in practice, and to adopt the example of an annual allowance, which had been formerly set by a very respectable state. There have been, and still are, those who are not without fear, that an augmentation of the daily pay, if it should not in fact tend, in some cases, to the protraction of the session, might produce an evil of equal magnitude, by subjecting the legislature to such an imputation.

Nor is it at all true, that the inconvenience of attending a session of Congress is always in proportion to its length. The session of the year in which the session is holden, may be as material as its duration. The length of the journey to the seat of government is the same in both cases; and both cases require an entire breaking off of all private engagements, and an exclusive devotion to public business. It may be added also, that while compensation was computed by the day, as the sessions would naturally be longest in times of war, the greatest expense would fall on the treasury, when it could bear it with the least convenience. Thinking, however, that the measure of augmenting the compensation was itself a necessary one, and that the form, if not the best, was a fair subject of experiment, the House did not forbear to adopt it, from difference of opinion in regard to the manner. It passed the law in its present form, in the hope that good would result from the change of mode, and with the knowledge that if such should not be the consequence, the former mode could be easily, and at any time, again adopted.

There now remain other topics connected with this subject, which the committee would submit to the consideration of the House.

Of all the powers with which the people have invested the government, that of legislation is undoubtedly the chief. In addition to its own important ordinary duties, the legislature is the only power which can create other powers. Departments, with all their duties and offices, with all their emoluments, can emanate from the Le-

gislature alone. Over the most numerous branch of the Legislature, therefore, the people have retained the power of frequent elections; and with this branch alone they have trusted the original exercise of the right of taxation. The Members of the House of Representatives are the special delegates and agents of the people in this high trust. They, and they alone, proceed immediately from the suffrage of the people. They, and they alone, can touch the main-spring of the public prosperity. They are elected to be the guardians of the public rights and liberties. Can the people, then, have any greater or clearer interest than that the seats of these, their representatives, should be honorable and independent stations, in order that they may have the power of filling them with able and independent men? Is it according to the principles of our government, that the legislative office should sink, in character and importance, below any office, even the highest in the gift of the executive? Or can any thing be more unpropitious to the success of a free representative government, than that the representatives of the people should estimate any thing higher than their own seats, or should find inducements to look to any other favor than the favor of their constituents?

It would be a most unnatural state of things, in a republic, if the people should place greater reliance any where else, than in their own immediate representatives; or if, on the other hand, representatives should revolve round any other centre than the interests of their constituents. Through their representatives, the direct influence and controul of the people can alone be felt. In them, the rays of their power are collected; and there can be no better criterion by which to judge of the real influence of the people in government, than by the degree of respectability and importance attached to the representative character. Evil, indeed, to the public, will that time be, should it ever arrive, when representatives in Congress, instead of being agents of the people to exercise an influence in government, shall become instruments of government to influence the people.

It is probably the necessary tendency of government that patronage and influence should accumulate wherever the executive power is deposited; and this accumulation may be expected to increase with the progress of the government, and the increasing wealth of the nation. To guard as far as possible, against the effect of this on the legislature, the constitution has prohibited members of Congress from holding, while members, any office under executive appointment; but it has not restrained them from resigning their seats to accept such appointments, nor from accepting them after their term of service has expired; nor has it prohibited the grant of such offices to their relations, connections or dependants. There are hundreds of offices in the gift of the executive, which as far as pecuniary emolument is concerned, are preferable to seats in Congress; indeed there are none (except of the very lowest class, which in that respect are not preferable.

Is it for the interest of the people, that their representatives should be placed in this condition? Is it expedient that better service should be commanded for any other department than for the hall of legislation? Or, admitting that offices of high trust and responsibility in the state, such as are commonly regarded less of pecuniary interest, than from the love of honorable disinterested devotion to the public service, should be more attractive than the legislative of-

fice, is it still fit or expedient that subordinate places in government, such as have no recommendation but the salaries and perquisites belonging to them, should have the same influence?

And yet, not only is it well known that persons, at every election, decline being candidates for the legislature, but the government has not been without instances, in which members of either House have relinquished their seats in the Congress of the United States to accept offices of a very low grade. Can the public interest require the establishment of a habit of filling such places by candidates taken from the legislative body? Or what is the value, to the people, of the right of representation, if they have nothing to give which their representatives will not relinquish for even the smaller appointments of the executive power? It cannot but tend more, one would think, to the permanent safety of the republic, that no such hopes or motives should exist; that there should be no inducements of this nature, either to an unfaithful and compliant discharge of official duty, or to a more indirect but not less pernicious exercise of the influence of a public character and a public station.

The geographical extent of the United States furnishes a case out of all analogy with any thing which has heretofore existed, either in any state government or the government of any other country.—There are members of Congress who reside more than a thousand miles from the seat of government; a great proportion live at more than half that distance. If these members are accompanied by their families to a session of Congress, even the present compensation, with the strictest economy, does not defray their expenses. To live within the means provided for them, they must come as exiles from their own homes; they must abandon, not only all private pursuits, but the enjoyment of all domestic relations, and live like strangers and temporary lodgers in the metropolis of their own country.—How far it is wise in government to demand of those who enter its service this sacrifice of all social feelings, those who have the deepest knowledge of our nature are most competent to judge. It is a sacrifice, which will not, ordinarily, and for any length of time, be made, by such as have the dearest and strongest ties to their country, and the greatest possible stake in its prosperity.

One further observation is obvious. If an adequate provision be not made for members of Congress, the office will fall, exclusively, into the hands of one or the other of two descriptions of persons; either of the most affluent of the country only who can bear the charges of it without any compensation; or of those who would accept it, not for the compensation legally belonging to it, but from the hope of turning it to account by other means. A reasonable allowance, neither extravagant on the one hand, nor parsimonious on the other, would seem to be the best security against these various evils. Influenced by these considerations, Congress was, at the last session, of opinion that the compensation to members had become inadequate. The committee are still of the same opinion. In many cases it was not equal to the expense incurred by individuals in their attendance on the legislature; and in all cases, it must be presumed that the labour and intelligence bestowed on the discharge of his official duties, by an able and faithful member of Congress could not but yield a much more profitable result if employed in private business.

If the view which the committee have taken of this subject, be not altogether an erroneous one; if great changes, in relation to the value of money, and the price of living, have taken place in the country;

if it has been found necessary to provide for this change, by an increase of the compensation of other officers throughout the general and state governments; and more than all, if it be desirable to maintain the constitutional importance of the legislative office; to open to the people a wide field for the selection of representatives; to put at their command the best talents in their respective districts; and to enable them to retain the services of those, whose knowledge and experience have best fitted them to promote their interests and maintain their rights; then, the object of the law in question was not only a useful, but a highly important and commendable object.

In regard to the mode of accomplishing that object, it has not been; and is not, easy to reconcile opinions. On the whole, the committee are of opinion, that under all the circumstances, it is advisable to provide, that the increase of pay should be made in the form of an addition to the former daily allowance. They, therefore, recommend, that in lieu of all other compensations, there be paid to members of Congress and delegates of territories, ——— dollars per day for their actual attendance, and ——— dollars for every twenty miles travel to and from the seat of government. And they report a bill for that purpose.

A BILL

Allowing compensation to the members of the Senate, members of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to delegates of Territories, and repealing all other laws on that subject, contrary thereto.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That during the remaining part of the present session of Congress, to be calculated from the time of passing this act, and at every future session of Congress, and at every meeting of the Senate, in the recess of Congress, each Senator shall be entitled to receive in lieu of all other compensations heretofore allowed by law, ——— dollars, for every day he shall attend the Senate; and shall also be allowed, at the commencement and end of every such session and meeting ——— dollars, for every twenty miles of the estimated distance, by the most usual road, from his place of residence to the seat of Congress; and in case any member of the Senate shall be detained by sickness, on his journey to or from any session or meeting, or after his arrival shall be unable to attend the Senate, he shall be entitled to the same daily allowance; and the President of the Senate, pro tempore, when the office of the Vice President of the United States, is or shall be vacant, shall, during the period of his services, be entitled to receive, in addition to his compensation as a member of the Senate, ——— dollars, for every day he shall attend the Senate. *Provided,* That no senator shall be allowed a sum exceeding the rate of ——— dollars a day, from the end of one such session or meeting, to the time of his taking a seat in another.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That during the remaining part of the present session of Congress, to be calculated from the time of passing this act, and at every future session of Congress, each representative, and each delegate from the respective territories, shall be entitled, in lieu of all other compensation heretofore allowed by law, ——— dollars, for every day they shall attend the House of Representatives; and shall be allowed at the commencement and end of each session, ——— dollars, for every twenty miles of the estimated distance, by the most usual road, from his place of residence to the seat of Congress; and in case any representative or delegate shall be detained by sickness, on his journey to and from the session, or after his arrival shall be unable to attend the House of Representatives, he shall be entitled to the daily allowance aforesaid; and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be entitled to receive, in addition to his compensation as a representative, ——— dollars, for every day he shall attend the House: *Provided always,* That no representative, or delegate, shall be allowed a sum exceeding the rate of ——— dollars a day, from the end of one session, to the time of his taking a seat in another. That the said compensation to the members of the Senate shall be certified by the President, and that which shall be due to the members of the House of Representatives, and to the delegates shall be

certified by the Speaker; and the same shall be passed as public accounts, and paid out of the public Treasury. And that all acts, or parts of contrary acts, to the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

GENERAL TOLEDO,

Such evidence of your guilt, has been laid before me; and of your being a traitor to the Patriot cause, that I should be more than a sceptic, longer to doubt the truth of it. In consequence of a publication, some time since, in the Democratic Press, denouncing you an apostate; I repaired immediately to New-York, (your head quarters) for the purpose of learning whether you could rebut the charge, considering it as ruinous to yourself, the cause in which you were engaged, and to those Americans who might be willing to repair (under your direction) to the standard of struggling Mexico. Instead of finding you at your post as I expected, and as you ought to have been, I learnt on my arrival that you had fled for Philadelphia, whither I pursued you; my exertions though indefatigable, to discover your lurking place, have been unattended with success. As this is the only means left in my power to state to you, my detestation of your conduct, I have availed myself of it. After reading the intercepted despatches of the governor of Havana, the letter of your father, and reflecting on your subsequent conduct, I have come to the following conclusions:—First that you are a cold hearted villain:—Secondly a traitor to the Patriot cause:—Thirdly a dastardly poltroon:—and Fourthly a swindler. First a cold hearted villain for daring to request me to raise men for the purpose of having them and myself butchered to expiate your former acts, and to restore you to the favor of Ferdinand "the beloved."—Secondly as a traitor for deserting "the sacred cause of liberty" after having engaged in the Patriot army of South America, and selling yourself and services to the king of Spain.—Thirdly, as a dastardly poltroon for injuring me, and not having courage to afford me an opportunity of demanding that satisfaction, which as an injured man I had a right to expect, and as a swindler for having borrowed of me at different times, money for which you have not accounted. There is a point of tolerance beyond which it is imprudent and unbecoming any man to go, that you have exceeded, by your outrageous conduct, and cannot consequently expect from me any regard for your feelings.—You, my fellow countrymen, who have a wish to lend a helping hand to a brave and oppressed people, struggling for the salvation of their country, pause for a moment and take the advice of him who has a lively interest in your welfare, (and who is one of you,) never embark in any expedition in which Toledo is concerned, for if you do, I warn you of a death from which no innocence can escape, no art elude, no

force resist, no antidote prevent—There was an antidote, Toledo's oath, but even that adamantine chain which bound the integrity of man to the throne of eternal justice was solved and melted by the flame which issued from the traitor's mouth, conscience swings from her moorings, and the appalled and affrighted wretch, would seek his own safety, in surrendering you as victims. Toledo, though you have forfeited every claim or pretension to the character of a gentleman, I am willing to give you any satisfaction for this publication, (if there should be a dying spark of honor or courage left in your bosom to require it) for which purpose I will remain in Philadelphia a week. I conceive it a duty I owe my family, my friends, my country, and myself, to take this step, having been the agent of Gen. Toledo in Philadelphia, and to state publicly to the world, that I was not concerned, neither did I know of, the plots and treasonable practices of Gen. Toledo, and I call upon the Chevalier de Onis, or any other man, to deny the truth of what I have asserted. The public will please excuse an individual for obtruding himself on its notice, the necessity which compels him he hopes will be considered as a sufficient apology.

JOHN C. MITCHELL.

Philadelphia, Dec. 10, 1816.

KINGSTON, U. C. Nov. 20.

Loss of the Schooner Comet.—It is reported, and we fear too true, that the schr. Comet, Capt. Warner, and owned by Mr. A. G. Gross, of this town which has sailed as a Packet from this port to the head of the Lake, has been lately wrecked near Burlington Bay, and every person on board perished, (there being a number of passengers,) except three, the Capt. a woman and a sailor.—We hope soon to have the particulars of this distressing occurrence.

From the American Watchman.

To the members of Congress in general, and the Hon Mr. Wendover* in particular.

THE (not humble) PETITION
OF THE "STRIPED BUNTING," OF THE
UNITED STATES.

High-waving, unsullied, unstruck, PROUDLY shew-
eth,

What each friend and each foe, and each neutral,
well knoweth.

That your lofty Petitioner never descends,
At the call of her foes nor the whim of her
friends;

The air is her element—there she remains,
'Bove the vapour of earth, and the vapour of
brains!

Her path is ethereal—high she aspires,
Her stripes aloft streaming, like Boreal fires,

* See Mr. Wendover's motion in Congress,
Dec. 9, to alter the Notional flag.

They stream to *astonish, dismay or delight*,
As the *foe* or the *friend* may encounter the sight,
On the Mediterranean, had you been present,
And seen them displayed o'er the infidel *Crescent*,

The terror of ev'ry piratical knave,
But hail'd and acclaim'd by the honest and
brave—

In that region so clear, in that sky so serene,
Her stars, in ascendancy bright, had you seen,
Your thoughts from her glory would never have
ranged,

Nor dreamt that *fixt stars* like the *moon*, could
be changed!

When o'er the red cross of the humbled Guer-
riere,

Your Petitioner hover'd—then was she not dear?
So bright was you flag, and its stars so resplen-
dent,

So well it became the victorious ascendant,
That the crew of *Old Iron-sides* swore, with
hearts full,

'Twas the best thing about her, excepting her
HULL!

By the fame of your Jackson, Brown, Ripley and
Scott,

Who beneath your Petitioner bravely have fought,
By their naval compeers, each illustrious name,
That has made your Petitioner sacred to Fame—
By the Spirit of LAWRENCE—unconquer'd to
death,

Whose concern for her glory employ'd his last
breath—†

By all that has claims to your love and respect,
She adjures you to save her from shameful neg-
lect!

Then shall your Petitioner, dear to the brave,
As in *honour* bound, ever triumphantly wave!

"STRIPED BUNTING."

† "Don't give up the ship!"—Oh, don't strike
the flag.

From Moore's Sacred Melodies.

SAINT AUGUSTINE TO HIS SISTER.

I.

Oh fair! oh purest! be thou the Dove,
That flies alone to some sunny grove;
And lives unseen, and bathes her wing,
All vestal white in the limpid spring.
There, if the hovering hawk be near,
That limpid spring in its mirror clear,
Reflects him, ere he can reach his prey,
And warns the timorous bird away.

Oh! be like this Dove.

Oh fair! oh purest! be like this Dove.

II

The sacred pages of God's own Book,
Shall be the spring, the eternal brook,
In whose holy mirror, night and day,
Thou wilt study Heaven's reflected ray:
And should the foes of virtue dare,
With gloomy wing to seek thee there,
Thou wilt see how dark their shadows lie,
Between Heaven and thee, and trembling fly!

Oh! be like this Dove.

Oh fair! oh purest! be like this Dove.